

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON.

The Debate on the Kansas Question in the Senate.

IMPORTANT TEST VOTE IN SECRET SESSION

Senator Douglas Read out of the Democratic Party by the Southern Senators.

Another Effort for a Branch Mint in New York.

DEPARTING FROM THE UTAH EXPEDITION,

&c., &c., &c.

Interesting news from the National Capital. The debate on the Kansas question in the Senate, which commenced yesterday, has attracted much of the public attention. The House of Representatives has also been occupied with the same subject. The debate in the Senate was held in secret session, and was of great importance. The House of Representatives has also been occupied with the same subject. The debate in the Senate was held in secret session, and was of great importance.

Immediately after the Senate met to-day they went into executive session for the purpose of confirming the nomination of Gen. Denver as Secretary for the Territory of Kansas, vice Senator Seward. Senator Douglas led off with a speech in opposition to the confirmation, and was followed by Seward, Hale, Trumbull and Polk; while on the democratic side the action of the administration was sustained by Sill, Mason, Benjamin, Bigler and others. After an animated debate of two hours and a half a vote was taken, and he was confirmed by a vote of twenty-nine to nineteen, the republicans all voting against and the democrats for confirmation, with the exception of Douglas, who left just before the vote was taken. Senators Gwin and Pugh spoke on the subject in an equivocal manner, but finally sustained the administration. Douglas carried but one democratic Senator with him—namely, Broderick, of California.

This is the first test vote, and so considered sustained the administration on the Kansas question. A caucus of southern Senators (thirteen in number), was held last evening, to consider what course they should pursue in reference to Senator Douglas. I understand they denounced his course, and unanimously read him out of the party.

Senator Douglas seems sanguine that the prompt passage of the "Tomb's bill" in reference to Kansas, would heal all differences in the democratic ranks and make the party impregnable North and South. He thinks the Leocompton constitution will be rejected here whether presented with or without the slavery clause.

A caucus of democratic Senators will be held to-morrow for the purpose of ascertaining the views of Senators as to the propriety of changing the officers in that body, and the election of a printer to the Senate, and also in constructing the Senate committee. A. D. Banks, of Virginia, is a candidate for printer to the Senate. It is believed that he will displace Col. Harris, of the Union.

Nothing of interest occurred in the House. About two hours were occupied in discussing the abstract question as to whether Congress needed a chaplain. It was warmly opposed by some that they were past praying for. They agreed, however, to give all the ministers in the city an opportunity to save them if possible.

The Congressional committees will be announced on Monday. Col. Richardson was confirmed as Governor of Nebraska. The telegram made me say that Col. Richardson had accepted the Kansas Governorship, when it should have been Nebraska.

The President has tendered the appointment of District Attorney for New York city to Judge Sutherland. He has written a letter to the President declining it. It now hangs between Messrs. Sedgwick and Hoffman.

Mr. May has gone to-day to-day that he would at a future day ask leave to introduce a bill for the establishment of a branch mint in the city of New York.

The Secretary of War received a telegraph despatch this evening from headquarters at New York, contradicting the statement that an engagement had taken place between the Mormons and the United States troops. The troops were going into winter quarters at Henry's fork, about one hundred miles from Salt Lake City. The troops were all well. The intelligence brought by the special messenger despatched by Col. Johnston, and the despatches are dated "Salt Lake, October 18."

Copies of the President's Message have been forwarded to London, and it is determined that Sir William Gore Lousley will not leave for Central America till he learns the views of his government there. He has been instructed to prevent the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty if possible.

General Robles anticipates important intelligence by telegraph to-morrow from Mexico. He considers the restoration of Santa Anna by no means improbable.

The public departments are remarkably quiet since dispoing of the annual reports.

In Naval Court No. 1 to-day Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hand were examined for their defence. The case of Commander Johnson, was continued, and Captain Stirling, Commander De Camp and Lieutenant Stanley were examined on the part of the government. In Court No. 3, in the case of Commander Glyn, Lieut. K. G. Parrot testified for the government, and Governor H. Wilson for applicant.

THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1857.

The nomination of Colonel Richardson as Governor of Nebraska was to-day confirmed by the Senate. This appointment implies that his position on the subject of Kansas is satisfactory to the administration.

General Denver's appointment as Secretary of State of Kansas was confirmed by 29 democratic votes to 19 republicans against it. Mr. Douglas was absent. General Denver has been telegraphed to at Bonville.

The removal of Governor Walker is daily expected. It is stated on high authority that should he now move in the direction of Kansas this result would immediately follow.

Thomas J. Semmes has been appointed United States Attorney for the district of New Orleans. His predecessor was removed on the ground that he did not use sufficient influence to prevent the escape of General Walker and his friends from that port.

From Nathaniel Clifford's appointment to supply the vacancy in the Supreme Court bench has not yet been definitely acted upon by the Senate.

THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate.

THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Seward, (opp.) of N. Y., submitted a resolution, which he offered, directing the Joint Committee on Printing to inquire and report whether any new provisions of law are necessary to secure the faithful performance on the part of Congress of the existing contracts, which provide for accurate reports of the debates of the two houses.

Mr. Douglas, (opp.) of Ill., gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill at an early day to enable the people of Kansas to form a constitution and State government, preparatory to their admission into the Union.

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THE CHAIRMAN.

Mr. DOWDLE, (adm.) offered a resolution requesting members of the Gospel residing in Washington to attend on the daily sessions of the House with prayer.

Mr. JONES, (adm.) of Tenn., presented petitions against the employment of chaplains by the government, on the ground of its unconstitutionality.

The resolution was adopted. Mr. Seward, (adm.) of N. Y., offered a resolution, which was adopted, providing for the distribution of books hereafter.

Mr. LUTHER, (adm.) of Va., took occasion to say that it was the duty of the House to stop the evil of book distribution. Some volumes are now in preparation, a single one of which will cost \$200,000. Everything to be printed should be first scrutinized, especially as lately they had heard so much about plunder.

The House then adjourned till Monday.

THE KANSAS QUESTION IN THE SENATE.

The Debate on the First Day.

SENATE. Thursday, Dec. 8, 1857.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved. Mr. BROWN, from the committee appointed to wait upon the President of the United States, reported that he had been instructed by the committee to wait upon the President to meet a similar committee on the part of the Senate to meet a similar committee on the part of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of forming the President of the United States that the two houses were organized and ready to receive any communication it might be his pleasure to make, have performed that duty and received answer that he would immediately make a communication to each house in writing.

Mr. J. H. HENRY, the President's Private Secretary, read a letter from the President of the United States to the Senate, in which he expressed his pleasure in the delivery to the Senate his annual message, in writing, with the accompanying documents.

Mr. DOUGLAS—I offer the following—Ordered, That the usual number of copies of the message and accompanying documents be printed, and if it is found that the Senate will not receive them, they shall be printed for the use of the Senate.

Before I yield the floor, I desire simply to say that I have listened to the President's message with great pleasure, and cordially in the most of the greater part of it, and in most of the views expressed, but in regard to one topic—that of the Leocompton constitution, I have listened with great interest, and with great anxiety, and with great concern.

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provisions before the great tribune of the American people, never differed about its true meaning on this subject.

That struggle, that great struggle of which the President's message is the result, was a struggle for the presidency of the United States. He says that on that occasion "everywhere throughout the Union," the friends of that bill—be it means those who supported James Buchanan.

Everywhere throughout the Union they publicly pledged their faith and their honor that they would cheerfully submit to the decision of the people, and that they would be content with the result of the election, without any restriction or qualification whatever.

Well, sir, the President says they have done this. He says they have submitted the question, "without any restriction or qualification whatever." He says that they have done this. He says that they have done this. He says that they have done this.

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will be important to print in full all the documents relative to Kansas. I suggest, therefore, that we make simply an order to prepare the ordinary number of the President's message and the documents relating to Kansas. The rest of it we can look after when we have a committee and printer.

Mr. DOUGLAS—I accept the amendment.

Mr. THURMILL—Before the message passed from the consideration of the Senate at this time, I desire to say that I cannot pass on the right of the President to call a convention to determine on the organic law under which the institutions for the government of white men shall be established. I believe it is the duty of the President to call a convention to determine on the organic law under which the institutions for the government of white men shall be established.

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